Reserve Bank of India and Registrar of Chit Fund have not received any complaint against these companies till date and, hence, no action is required to be taken against them.

Import of agricultural products

*331. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the import of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the imports of different categories of products from various countries during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) whether any instance of dumping of agricultural products has come to Government's notice; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Standing Group of Secretaries which is monitoring the import of identified 300 Sensitive Items. The said list contains certain agricultural products also. A Statement showing import of major agricultural products during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto Jan. 2002) is enclosed (*See* below). Wherever abnormal increases in import are noticed, the Standing Group has been recommending increases in tariffs. Thus, for instance, in the budget for the year 2000-2001, import of duties on many of the agricultural items, (Chapter 1 to 24 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002), were increased to provide protection to domestic farmers. Duty on rice was increased from 0% to upto 80% on maize from 0% to 50% on apples from 35% to 50% and on wheat raised to 50%. Similarly, in the budget for the year 2001-2002, the custom duty on coconut, copra, tea and coffee was raised from 35% to 70%. In the budget for

the year 2002-2003, the custom duty on tea and coffee has been further raised from 70% to 100%, on natural rubber latex (code no. 4001.10) from 35% to 70% on cloves, cardamom, pepper and poppy seeds from 35% to 70% and on pulses from 5% to 10%.

(a) and (d) According to Anti-Dumping Rules the initiation of Anti-Dumping investigations is normally undertaken when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with *Prima-facie* evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic producers.

In so far as Agriculture products are concerned, a request was made by the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd/ National Development Dairy Board in Nov. 1998 for imposition of Anti-Dumping duty on Skimmed Milk Powder and Butter Oil imported from European Union. The same was subsequently withdrawn by the petitioner. So far as dumping of other agricultural products into Indian markets is concerned, no fully documented petition has been received from the domestic industry indicating any dumping or injury to the domestic producers.

Statement

Import of major agricultural Products during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto Jan. 2002)

Qty. in tons
Value in Rs. Crore

Sl. No.	Items	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (upto Jan. 2002)	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Wheat	1365967	774.34	4224	2.87	1351	0.84
2.	Rice	34991	29.94	13203	17.79	62	0.06
3.	Other Cereals	205203	114.07	30378	15.61	4156	2.60
4.	Pulses	250766	354.69	348471	493.79	1823739	2635.22
5.	Tea	5057	25.61	6404	41.48	8664	49.21
6.	Cashew Nuts	255999	1198.26	249087	962.13	148772	394.25
7.	Fruits & Nuts Excl. Cashew Nuts	—	590.84	—	803.99	—	641.94
8.	Spices	65077	294.10	50746	249.60	69544	372.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Oil Seeds	—	15.42	—	7.89	—	1.35
10.	Natural Rubber	20207	57.32	8572	29.34	42404	126.77
11.	Jute, Raw	137398	139.31	73365	82.57	63615	76.05
12.	Silk, Raw	5058	412.74	4738	476.25	5081	477.65
13.	Cotton Raw Comb/ Uncomb/Waste	237398	1253.92	212069	1183.14	334031	1791.94

Industrial Development in Assam

*332. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government propose to take for industrial development of Assam;

(b) whether Government propose to set up new industries in Assam in near future; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to expand and improve the existing foreign commercial routes like Moreh, Dawki and water routes of Brahmaputra; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to clear the Stilwel Road route to Myanmar and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) An Industrial Policy and other concessions comprising schemes like (i) Growth Centre (ii) Transport Subsidy (iii) Capital Investment Subsidy (iv) Central Interest Subsidy (v) Central Comprehensive Insurance (vi) Central Excise & Icome-tax exmeption has been notified for promotion of industry in the North Eastern Region including the State of Assam, with a view to develop infrastructure facility and to promote investment in the North Eastern States. Infrastructure facilities like EPIP in Amingaon, IIDCs at Dalgaon Growth Centres at Balipara and Matia have been set up for promoting investment in Assam. NEDFI has successfuly set up an IT Park which is the largest Call Centre in Eastern India. The NEDFI has been nominated as nodal agency for disbursement of central